

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

ACDE-00 /026 W

----- 109485

R 301515Z APR 75

FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2591

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 0186

EXDIS/SALT

DEPT ALSO PASS DOD

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E O 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: DRAFTING GROUP MEETING, APRIL 29, 1975
(SALT TWO - 641)

1. DRAFTING WORKING GROUP HELD TWO-HOUR SESSION APRIL 29 (A864). KARPOV SUBMITTED PREAMBLE AND SEVERAL ARTICLES OF POSSIBLE JOINT BRACKETED TEXT. DISCUSSION WAS POSTPONED PENDING US CONSIDERATION.

2. KARPOV CONFIRMED THAT SOVIET OBJECTION TO USE OF TERM "LAUNCHER" IN CONNECTION WITH ASMS ARISES FROM FACT THAT MISSILES CAN BE DROPPED FROM BOMBERS WHICH WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A LAUNCH AS SOVIETS UNDERSTAND TERM.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH US ARTICLE V KLOSSON ASKED WHETHER SOVIET UNDERSTANDING IS THAT IA OBLIGATION NOT TO START CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL FIXED ICBM LAUNCHERS INCLUDES OBLIGATION NOT TO RELOCATE EXISTING FIXED ICBM LAUNCHERS. KARPOV REFUSED TO DISCUSS ISSUE AND SAID HE WILL CONTINUE TO BRACKET THIS PHRASE IN US TEXT. HE ALSO TOOK HARD LINE ON HEAVY ICBMS, REITERATING THAT IDEA OF CEILING ON VOLUME AND THROW-WEIGHT

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OF SUCH MISSILES IS UNNECESSARY IN VIEW OF OTHER PROVISIONS

AND UNACCEPTABLE.

4. ON US ARTICLE V, KARPOV SAID SOVIETS HAVE BRACKETED PARAGRAPH RESTRICTING NUMBER OF LAUNCHERS AND HEAVY BOMBERS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT ANY TIME BECAUSE HE HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. SIDES HAD LONG DISCUSSION ON QUESTION OF RAPID RELOAD AND STORAGE OF ADDITIONAL MISSILES AT ICBM LAUNCH FIELDS AND SITES. KARPOV PROFESSED NOT TO UNDERSTAND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF US PROPOSAL, ESPECIALLY AS IT APPLIES TO MOBILE LAUNCHERS. KLOSSON AND EARLE EXPLAINED RATIONALE FOR PROPOSAL AND NOTED PROHIBITION ON RAPID RELOAD IN ABM TREATY. KARPOV REJECTED ANALOGY BETWEEN ABMS AND ICBMS AS FAR AS RAPID RELOAD IS CONCERNED, REFERRING TO SPRINT AS SMALL MISSILE. EARLE NOTED THAT SPRINT IS QUITE LARGE BUT, IN ANY EVENT, IN 1972 BOTH SIDES HAD OTHER ABMS DEPLOYED OR IN DEVELOPMENT WHICH ARE COMPARABLE IN SIZE TO ICBMS. KARPOV APPEARED CONCERNED THAT US PROPOSAL WOULD RESTRICT MOVEMENT OF MOBILE ICBMS. WITH RESPECT TO SILOS, HE PROBED UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR TYPES OF RELOAD MECHANISMS US HAS IN MIND. HE MENTIONED DRUMS OR CLIPS CONTAINING RELOAD MISSILES AND NOTED THAT SUCH SCHEMES WOULD REQUIRE 5- OR 6-FOLD INCREASE IN SIZE OF LAUNCHER, WHICH IS ALREADY PROHIBITED. KARPOV SAID US APPROACH OF CLOSING LOOPHOLES IS LAUDABLE, THEORETICALLY SPEAKING, BUT SAID HE IS NOT IN POSITION TO EITHER ACCEPT OR REJECT US PROPOSAL DUE TO LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT IT.

6. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED APRIL 30. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALT (ARMS CONTROL), ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, SALT TWO-641
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SALTT00186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750152-0135
From: SALT TALKS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975043/aaaaaciv.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA, 3.4.X9, (SALT II)>; RELEASED <18 JUL 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <21 JUL 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRAFTING GROUP MEETING, APRIL 29, 1975 (SALT TWO - 641)
TAGS: PARM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006